

## **Employment/Training/Education Task Group**

### **Transitions to Adult Living Implementation Team**

**Group Members:** Marie Christman, Chair, Don Carpenter, Steve Goodrich, Karl Wilson, Barbara Thompson, Bob Haywood, Ken Hull, Mike Beacco, Jennifer Calcut, Mary Shumway, Savania Tsosie, Jane Broadhead, Suzette Martellaro, Kathy Dimick, Rod Barlow, Chris Mayne, Ann Barnson, Kelly Thornton, Steve Cuthbert, Scott Sneddon, Heidi Edwards, Cosette Mills, Don Uchida

**Background Supporting the Employment/Training/Education Team Task Group:** A youth leadership summit on “Transitions to Adult Living” was held in June 2003. At that summit youth met to determine what their top concerns were in connection with transitioning from foster care to adult living. The youth addressed needs and goals in the areas of education, employment, personal life issues and housing. These youth highlighted areas of concern and desired goals in connection with their needs. In response to the needs of youth transitioning into adulthood, task groups have been formed to accomplish goals in a timely manner. (*Year One of Utah’s Transitions to Adult Living Support Network Five Year Plan, October 2003*)

**Purpose:** It is acknowledged that youth in foster care and youth aging out of the foster care system need a continuum of employment, training and education programs that match their skills, abilities and interests. The services and programs provided by DWS (and the WIA youth contract providers) should be coordinated and integrated with the services provided by DCFS and with the needs and interests of these youth.

#### **Tasks:**

- Inventory the employment, training and education programs available for foster youth transitioning to adulthood.
- Determine the appropriate agency to administer the DCFS Education Training Voucher (ETV) program.
- Conduct regional meetings with DWS and WIA youth contract provider staff, and IL Coordinators to identify services and referral procedures.
- Invite IL Coordinators to sit on DWS Regional Youth Councils.
- Develop and implement a collaborative and integrated continuum of the services with designated areas of responsibility provided by DCFS and DWS.
- Develop and implement the advocacy, referral, case management, and follow-up procedures for the continuum of services at the state and regional level.
- Conduct training for agency staff regarding the educational, employment, housing, medical and social/emotional needs of foster youth and youth aging out of the foster care system.

**Authority of Employment/Training/Education Task Group - Scope of decision-making:** This group will receive ongoing direction from the Implementation Team until completion of assigned tasks. Task Group will present recommendations and proposals to the Implementation Team for approval prior to implementation.

#### **Deliverables/Reporting Requirements:**

1. The tasks listed above will be completed by June 2004.
2. Once the tasks identified above are completed, this group will identify and address the tasks necessary to continue the integration of education and training services.
3. Task Group will report progress on a regular basis.

**Special Provisions/Tenure:** Individuals that are chosen or who volunteer to complete tasks and participate in this Task Group will be at the discretion of the agency they represent and the Implementation Team. This Task Group may solicit staff and stakeholder input and involvement as needed to complete tasks.